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Bangalore Mirror

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Between Jan and Feb, 140 people died due to road accidents in city, making this period among deadliest in recent years — 784 accidents recorded, causing 135 victims serious disabilities

BLOOD & GORE ON OUR ROADS

After couple of serious incidents involving BMTC buses, drivers asked to exercise more care

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As if an alarming spike in accidents over the past two months were not enough, there is one more concerning aspect in the figures -- though involved relatively in fewer accidents, this month, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses figure in at least two serious ones. Official records reveal that 140 people lost their lives in accidents reported in January and February, making this period one of the deadliest in recent years. Out of 784 accidents, 682 individuals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“Accidents involving BMTC buses are comparatively lower, making up only about 10%. So far, only one or two incidents involving BMTC buses have been recorded, indicating that private vehicles, particularly two-wheelers, are a more frequent factor in road mishaps

—Traffic police official

CHILDHOOD LOST

Over past 9 months, 306 children engaged in begging across state rescued and handed over to Child Welfare Committee

PAGE 2

PATCHY GREEN

Total geographical area under forest in Bengaluru much lower than other mega cities in country, reveals report

PAGE 6

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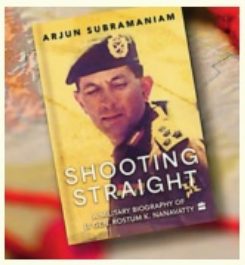
THINGS TO DO

01 Decoding conflict



Bangalore International Centre is organising a book discussion of 'Shooting Straight' by Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam, former fighter pilot and accomplished military historian. Military historian Probal Dasgupta will be joining him in a free-wheeling discussion on the changing character of conflict over the past few decades, and its implications for India.
Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: March 18, 6.30 pm

02 Musical evening

Ekatvam, an initiative of Entrust Foundation, is presenting the annual Ekatvam Holi Music Festival 2025, featuring an all-women line-up, showcasing exceptional female artistry. It celebrates the festival of colour and music, and brings together performers, connoisseurs, critics, and mentors.
Where: Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi; When: March 22 and 23, March 29 and 30, 4 pm

03 Movie magic

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) is presenting 'Aasmana Anasuya', a film on Telugu folk, as part of the second edition of Women's History Month, a month-long festival throughout March 2025 dedicated to celebrating and amplifying the invaluable contributions of women to the diverse landscape of Indian music.
Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; When: March 22, 1.30 pm

04 Craft carnival

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition organised by Maaruthi Enterprises is holding an exhibition cum sale. Along with a variety of Rajasthani handicraft and handlooms, the exhibition brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India, featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts.
Where: VV Convention Hall, Horamavu; When: March 14 to March 30, 10 am to 9 pm

306 children rescued from life of beggary

Among children taken into care, 79 put in government-run child care homes, 42 remain in government shelter homes with mothers, and 182 children are reunited with their families

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Regardless of government efforts, and begging being legally prohibited in Karnataka, the number of people engaging in begging remains high

Despite the Karnataka government investing crores in eradicating begging and rehabilitating beggars, the issue continues to persist. Over the past nine months, 306 children engaging in begging across the state were rescued and handed over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Although the government has introduced several welfare programs for the underprivileged, thousands of men, women, and children still rely on begging for survival in urban and semi-urban areas. While this is an inconvenience to the public, it also highlights the failure of the system to provide even basic facilities to society's most vulnerable sections. Currently, authorities have identified individuals involved in begging, and placed them in relief and rehabilitation centers to help transform their lives.

Government's efforts

The government has allocated ₹63.72 crore (2021-22), ₹104.52 crore (2022-23), and ₹137.93 crore (2023-24) for anti-begging efforts. Additionally, ₹3.71 crore was spent on awareness campaigns in Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses, and ₹24.91 lakh was allocated for Mysuru, to tackle begging. Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar disclosed these figures in response to MLA Subbareddy's query in the Assembly.

While some resort to begging out of necessity, for others, it has become a means of livelihood. Despite ongoing government efforts to rehabilitate individuals, complete eradication of begging remains a challenge

Challenges in eradicating begging

Regardless of government efforts, and begging being legally prohibited in Karnataka, the number of people engaging in begging remains high. Between April and December 2024, authorities have rescued 306 children from begging across Karnataka. These children were presented before the Child Welfare Committee for rehabilitation. Among them 4 children were sent to adoption centers.

An official said that a total of 79 children were placed in government-run child care homes, while 42 children were accommodated with their mothers at Swadhar Greh (government shelter homes). The official highlighted that 182 children were reunited with their families. Noting that begging remains prevalent, especially in large cities, the official said that poverty, illiteracy, physical disabilities, mental health issues, loss of parents or guardians, and economic distress due to unemployment, seem to be the driving factors. "While some resort to begging out of necessity, for others, it has become a means of livelihood. Despite ongoing government efforts to rehabilitate individuals, complete eradication of begging remains a challenge," the official stated.

Summer special: Try to stay off street food

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Health officials have raised a warning regarding consumption of food items from roadside vendors in summer, as it carries a heightened risk of bacterial and viral infections, including acute gastroenteritis. Doctors across the city have reported an increase in cases of Hepatitis A and E, typhoid, and other gastrointestinal diseases, particularly among families, all linked to contaminated food and water. According to the public health department, epidemiological data indicates that waterborne and foodborne illnesses spike during summer.

Cut fruits, due to their exposed surfaces and high sugar content, become breeding grounds for bacteria like Salmonella, Escherichia coli, and Staphylococcus aureus. The warm weather accelerates bacterial growth, making such fruits particularly risky. "Fruits naturally spoil faster in hot weather. Cutting them further speeds up this process as the exposed flesh oxidizes and decays," said a health official, highlighting that flies and other insects, which are more prevalent in summer, increase the risk of contamination. Poor hygiene practices, such as unwashed hands and unclean cutting surfaces, also contribute to foodborne diseases.

To stay safe from infections during the summer, it is essential to follow proper hygiene, and food safety practices

Healthy consumption habits

Despite the risks, summer fruits like watermelon, pineapple, and citrus fruits are essential for hydration and boosting immunity, due to their rich vitamin and mineral content. Health experts suggest that children should eat a bowl of fruits daily, but recommend purchasing whole, uncut fruits. It is advised to wash fruits thoroughly in running water, and cut them at home to ensure hygiene and safety.

To stay safe from infections during the summer, it is essential to follow proper hygiene, and food safety practices. Drinking only purified, boiled, or filtered water is crucial, as consuming untreated water from natural sources can also lead to serious health issues. Maintaining personal hygiene, especially washing hands before eating, helps prevent the spread of bacteria and viruses. Ensuring clean surroundings and proper sanitation reduces the risk of contamination.

Common summer ailments

Cholera: Caused by Vibrio cholerae bacteria, leading to severe diarrhea and dehydration.

Typhoid Fever: Spread through contaminated food or water containing Salmonella Typhi, causing high fever, headache, and abdominal pain.

Hepatitis A: A viral infection affecting the liver, resulting in fatigue, nausea, and jaundice.

Diarrheal diseases: Caused by Escherichia coli or Rotavirus, leading to frequent, watery stools and dehydration.

Pull a stunt, lose right to licence till you are 25

Traffic police to recommend DL issuance delay for minors caught wheeling

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According to official data, in 2024, a total of 141 wheeling cases were registered in the West Division, leading to the seizure of an equal number of vehicles and the arrest of 118 offenders

Minors caught performing dangerous stunts on city roads may now face a significant consequence, delayed issuance of their driving licences. Bengaluru Traffic Police (West Division) has begun formally requesting the Regional Transport Office (RTO) to withhold driving licences for such offenders until they turn 25 years of age. This move is part of a broader crackdown on wheeling, aimed at deterring reckless riding and ensuring road safety.

DCP Traffic (West) Anitha B Haddannavar told Bangalore Mirror that the initiative is aimed at ensuring young offenders do not repeat the violation or engage in dangerous road behaviour in the future. "When a case of wheeling is registered and minors are booked, we write to the RTO recommending that their DL issuance be withheld until they reach 25 years of age. This acts as a deterrent and reinforces road safety norms," she explained.

In 2024, as many as 27 letters were sent to the RTO requesting a delay in issuing driving licences to underage offenders booked for wheeling. This year, up until February, eight minors have been booked for wheeling, and four such letters have already been issued to the RTO.

Rs 11.8 lakh fine collected in West Division

According to official data, in 2024, a total of 141 wheeling cases were registered in the West Division, leading to the seizure of an equal number of vehicles. Police arrested 118 individuals, including 30 minors.

Additionally, 97 vehicle registration certificates (RCs) were seized and forwarded for suspension, while 25 driving licences (DLs) faced similar action. As many as 17 cases were booked under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, and legal proceedings were initiated against 24 guardians for negligence. In total, a fine of Rs 11.8 lakh was collected from offenders in the West Division alone.

The crackdown has continued in 2025, with 80 cases of wheeling registered as of February, resulting in 80 vehicle seizures and the arrest of 76 individuals, including eight minors. The authorities have also seized 63 RCs, 62 of which have been sent for suspension. Additionally, 14 DLs were confiscated and forwarded for suspension, while six cases have been booked under the JJ Act. Action has been taken against seven guardians for allowing minors to engage in such reckless acts.

> **When a case of wheeling is registered and minors are booked, we write to the RTO to withhold licences**
> –Anitha Haddannavar, DCP Traffic (W)

Officials emphasise that such measures are crucial in addressing the menace of wheeling, which not only endangers the riders but also poses a significant threat to other road users.

Is all okay with paneer? Probe is on

Amid growing concerns over paneer adulteration, the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department has initiated a statewide investigation following reports in social and mainstream media about the possible addition of adulterants in paneer sold in the market.

The issue has raised significant public health concerns, prompting the Chief Minister's Office to direct immediate action.

A letter from the CM's Special Officers, dated March 3, has instructed the department to expedite the probe and submit a compliance report at the earliest. The letter, which also included a copy of the news report highlighting the issue, stressed the need for swift measures to ensure consumer safety and maintain food quality standards.

Following this, as part of the investigation, officials from the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department have collected 163 paneer samples from across Karnataka throughout March 2025. These samples have been sent for laboratory testing to determine the presence of harmful adulterants. So far, four samples have been analysed and found to be safe, while testing of the remaining samples is still in progress.

Authorities have assured that appropriate legal action will be taken against manufacturers, suppliers, or vendors found guilty of violating food safety regulations. Officials emphasise that strict penalties and prosecution will follow if any of the samples test positive for adulterants. The compliance report, detailing findings and action taken, will be submitted to the CM's Office. — BMB

Petty thieves take what they get at HAL 3rd Stage

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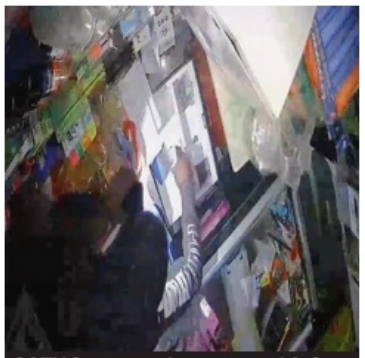

CCTV footage shows one thief cooling whisking off a gas cylinder (left) and one taking items from a shop

The residents of HAL 3rd Stage have been facing a lot of problems for the last three months due to petty thefts. Their complaints to the Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police have not resulted in any actions. They are also worried about their safety because the thieves enter homes and shops and make away with whatever is available.

The residents complain that they have lost items like chamber covers and LPG cylinders. "We are worried about our safety. Thieves have broken into houses and shops. We have already complained to the jurisdictional police to intensify patrolling to nab the thieves," said HAL 3rd Stage Taxpayers & Residents Association Secretary Meenakshi Prabhu.

Expressing concern over the theft incidents, Sneha Nandihal of I Change Indiranagar said the police must act tough against the thieves. "The residents should come forward to lodge complaints with the police when a theft takes place. The police should take a suo motu action without waiting for the residents to complain to them," said Nandihal.

A resident on the condition of anonymity told BM that thieves broke into a shop and made away with valuable things. "The petty thieves are ruling the roost at night. They come on two-wheelers. While one of them waited on the road, the other one broke into the house. There is no one to stop the thieves. The police must arrest them to ensure residents are safe," the resident said.

Expressing concern over the increase in the number of thefts, Subhashini S, a resident, said that her house was burgled last July and she has lodged a complaint with police. "It is quite disturbing and frightening to see anti-social elements and drunkards roaming in the area. Our area is known for its safety, but recent thefts are a cause of concern," she said.

Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police Inspector told BM that he has received complaints from residents on thefts. "We have installed a check post on Thippasandra Main Road. I have instructed my subordinates to intensify patrolling at night. I will supervise the patrolling at night. We are hopeful of nabbing the thieves soon," the police inspector said.

Waste to wealth

Residents transform wet waste into compost to restore soil and revive urban greenery

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Some residents of Domlur have taken waste processing to the next level by converting wet waste into nutrient-rich compost that replenishes the soil and supports tree growth. Instead of letting waste rot and generate methane, which contributes to climate change, they have taken proactive steps to improve their environment. They cleared litter around trees, prepared the soil, and enriched it by mixing in compost, fostering healthier greenery in the area.

The residents, in association with BBMP Marshals, have followed a systematic process to improve soil health and cleanliness. They began by removing surface litter and then dug into the soil to loosen it while extracting embedded waste such as paper, glass cups, and pan packets. Once the soil was thoroughly prepared, they mixed in compost and watered it to ensure proper absorption and prevent it from being carried away by the wind.

The volunteers have taken up this initiative as part of beautifying their layout. As of now the number of volunteers is 15 and it is said five more passersby have expressed their willingness to join the initiative.

"It is a great community building activity involving residents in being a part of beautifying their layout. Even better, it is a great way to get residents involved and take pride in beautiful surroundings with 5 passersby wishing to join us! Volunteers meet regularly on various wastes, litter, plastic ban priorities and this was focused on beautifying four large avenue trees on our layout's main street. Compost from wet waste of our apartment Purva Paradise was used to enrich the soil and rejuvenate trees in a perfect example of a circular economy," said Odette Katrak, an active Domlur resident.

> **By our simple actions: We are adding a positive impact to our environment, just as nature intended, and creating cleaner, more beautiful surroundings**
>
> – Odette Katrak, Domlur resident

She said that the same wet waste elsewhere when improperly disposed of, is known to rot and give off methane contributing to climate change. "By our simple actions, it is now adding a positive impact to our environment, just as nature intended, and to cleaner, more beautiful surroundings. Also, local processing reduces transportation and this is a powerful model to be implemented across the layout and city," she said.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Bidyut Nath, a resident of Domlur, shared that he and other volunteers discovered a significant amount of plastic and other waste dumped around the trees. "We have huge trees in our layout, and unfortunately, we found all kinds of waste littered around them. We cleared the plastic and enriched the soil by adding compost. So far, we have cleaned around six trees, and we plan to continue this effort on weekends," he said.

Residents and BBMP Marshals bautifying trees at Domlur; (Inset) Waste littered around a tree in Domlur

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Unsafe crossing
D'Souza Road

Pedestrian crossing markings near Green Dot, D'Souza Road, have faded beyond recognition for over a year. What are traffic police and other authorities doing?

Neglected waste
Singanayakanahalli

Waste left uncleared on Doddaballapur Main Road near Singanayakanahalli.

All uphill for Greater B'luru bill

Citizens submit memo to Guv, opposing Bill, urge govt to reconsider large-scale projects

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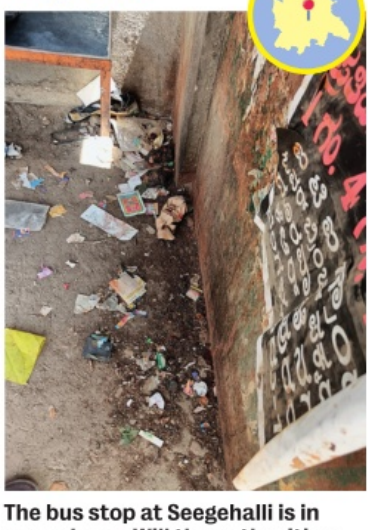
Bengaluru's civic activists and concerned citizens have strongly opposed the Karnataka government's Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill (GBGB). The collective, Bengaluru Town Hall, has submitted a memorandum to the Governor, urging him not to approve the Bill, which was recently passed in both houses of the legislature.

The group argues that the Bill contains undemocratic and unconstitutional provisions. They have also raised concerns over large-scale infrastructure projects like the proposed Tunnel Road, Sky-Deck, and Expressways, citing environmental and financial risks. Earlier, a coalition of NGOs and experts had submitted a detailed report to the Chief Minister, highlighting the negative impacts of these projects. However, activists claim the government has not responded or reconsidered its plans. A separate memorandum detailing objections to the GBGB has also been sent by the civic group CIVIC. Activists insist their demand for better governance is backed by expert analysis and references to judicial rulings.

File photo of members of the Bengaluru Nava Nirmana Party (BNP) protesting against the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill (GBGB) at Freedom Park on Sunday

> **The government has neither responded nor reconsidered these projects, which pose severe environmental risks and impose heavy costs without significant benefits**
>
> –A member of the collective

Damaged stop
Seegehalli



The bus stop at Seegehalli is in poor shape. Will the authorities take action?

Allegations of police brutality during drink-and-drive inspection

A case of alleged police brutality has surfaced against Vijayanagar traffic police after a man accused of drunk driving was reportedly assaulted and left unconscious. The victim, identified as Ishwar, has made the accusations against Sub-Inspector Shantaram and staff member Siddique in a video recorded from his hospital bed.

The incident began on the night of March 14 when Ishwar was stopped near GT Mall while riding his bike.

According to his allegations, the officers informed him that the official fine for drunk driving was Rs 10,000 but offered to settle the matter for Rs 3,000 in cash.

When Ishwar attempted to pay digitally, he was allegedly forced to pay in cash, which he refused, stating he would settle the fine in court. Following this, the police seized his bike and took him to the Govindaraja Nagar police station, allegedly threatening to file charges against him for obstructing duty.

The next day, Ishwar went to court, paid Rs 13,000 in total fines, and sent his friend to retrieve his bike on March 16. However, he was allegedly summoned to Vijayanagar police station, where SI Shantaram and Siddique reportedly assaulted him, using abusive language, kicking him with their boots, and beating him until he lost consciousness. Ishwar was later admitted to Victoria Hospital by his friends.

Constable's body found in abandoned quarters

The decomposed body of 29-year-old constable Mubarak Mujavar was discovered in an abandoned quarters under Adugodi police station limits on Monday. Mujavar, who was serving with the CAR (South) Division, had been missing for a month.

According to the police, a missing complaint was filed by his friend at Adugodi police station nearly a month ago. During the investigation, officers found his body in the deserted quarters. Authorities are now probing the circumstances that led to his death.

Mujavar is survived by a two-year-old son and a four-month-old daughter. His wife had reportedly traveled to her hometown for the delivery of their second child.

The police have registered a UDR (Unnatural death) case and launched further investigations into the incident. **BMB**

HIGH COURT

K'taka microfinance ordinance to stay

'Ordinance carves out protective shield for those trapped in labyrinth of unsecured micro loans'

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The High Court dismissed a petition on Monday challenging the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025.

The ordinance, implemented last month, aims to safeguard economically vulnerable individuals from aggressive loan recovery practices. Justice M Nagaprasanna had previously observed that the petitioner's primary concern was regarding the ordinance's applicability to lenders beyond micro-finance institutions (MFI).

In Monday's judgment, the judge specified that the ordinance applies exclusively to unsecured microfinance loan transactions, excluding non-MFI lenders.

"The Ordinance does not traverse into the realm of secured transactions undertaken by the regulated entities like the petitioner, on the contrary, it carves out a protective shield specifically for those trapped in the labyrinth or unsecured micro loans extended without collateral, targeting an annual income of Rs.3 lakh or less, which is clearly defined by the Reserve Bank of India, as quoted supra.

Therefore, the Ordinance has taken birth from the womb of social justice, it nowhere depicts arbitrariness. The grievance of the petitioner is, on the face of it, imaginary and unacceptable. The issue is thus answered against the petitioner," states the judgment.

The Court determined that the ordinance showed no evident arbitrariness warranting its invalidation as unconstitutional.

"Courts must always be loathe to strike down a measure of this kind, unless compelled by an egregious violation of constitutional mandates, I find none.

The petition wanting in merit should necessarily meet its dismissal. It accordingly meets. The petition stands dismissed," the Court concluded.

The ordinance prohibits collateral-based microfinance loans and requires lenders to release existing securities from borrowers.

It additionally releases 'vulnerable' borrowers from pre-ordinance loans issued by unregistered or unlicensed micro-finance institutions.

The Karnataka Hire Purchase Association, representing motor vehicle/asset financiers, contended that the ordinance failed to differentiate between predatory creditors and compliant lenders.

They emphasised that their vehicle and asset financing operations differ from traditional money lending, supporting asset creation and economic development.

The association filed a writ petition questioning the 2025 ordinance's constitutionality, concerned about its impact on hire-purchase lenders. Senior Advocate Udaya Holla, representing the association, argued that terms like "borrower" or "lender" were defined without proper consideration.

The petition noted that "vulnerable" borrowers lacked income criteria definition, potentially leading to ordinance misuse.

The plea suggested the ordinance would compromise existing contracts and encourage future defaults through similar relief expectations.

I-T dept must accept fair market value of shares

The High Court ruled that the income tax department cannot reject the fair market value of shares when determined through statutory methods. A Division Bench comprising Justices Krishna S Dixit and Ramachandra D Huddar examined a case where revenue authorities contested a Tribunal order.

The Tribunal had previously validated a valuation report using the DCF Method during assessment proceedings.

The assessee had provided a Chartered Accountant's valuation report using the DCF method. The projected income was supported by the JDA that the assessee had entered into.

Lower authorities dismissed the DCF valuation method, stating it lacked scientific basis and questioned the possibility of share premium valuation for a loss-making assessee. The Tribunal noted that lower authorities rejected the assessee's DCF methodology without examining the detailed calculations used to determine the valuation.

According to the Tribunal, the authorities could not dismiss the assessee's valuation without providing contrary evidence.

The revenue authorities subsequently challenged the Tribunal's decision.

The assessee contended that the Tribunal incorrectly interpreted Section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, leading to the removal of Rs 33,71,77,500/- addition regarding share premium credits. The bench determined that the Tribunal's interpretation focused on the shares' fair market value rather than the premium amount.

The bench concurred with the assessee's position that the share valuation followed one of the statutory methods outlined in Rule 11UA(2) of the applicable Rules. Consequently, the bench ruled in favour of the assessee and against the revenue authorities. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

Serial bike thief nabbed, 8 vehicles recovered

Police have arrested a man involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts across the city and recovered eight stolen vehicles worth Rs 9 lakh.

The breakthrough came after a complaint was filed at Banaswadi Police Station on January 10. The complainant had parked his two-wheeler outside a tea shop on CMR Road in Kammanahalli, only to find it missing upon his return. Following this, multiple cases of bike thefts were registered in the area.

Acting on intelligence and CCTV footage analysis, police traced the suspect and apprehended him on March 6, in Kammanahalli. Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing two-wheelers from various locations in Bengaluru.

Further investigation led the police to recover four stolen vehicles near St. Thomas Church in Kammanahalli and another set of four bikes hidden in an open space in Old Bagalur Layout.

The thefts were linked to multiple cases across Banaswadi, KG Halli, RT Nagar, and Govindpura police jurisdictions. **BMB**

Thieves steal wheels from parked car

A theft was reported in the early hours of the morning in Gandhinagar, where miscreants stole the wheels of a car parked near a hotel.

The incident occurred around 3 am, when a thief arrived in an SUV, surveyed the surroundings, and ensured no one was nearby. He was then joined by an accomplice, and together, they used a jack to lift the parked vehicle. The thieves placed stones in place of the wheels, removed all four, loaded them into their car, and fled the scene.

The vehicle belonged to Govinda Gowda from Vijayapur, who had come to Bengaluru on Saturday for personal work and parked his car near the hotel.

Some hotel guests witnessed the theft and recorded it on their mobile phones, capturing the criminals in action. Govinda Gowda has filed a complaint at Upparpet police station, and the police have launched an investigation to track down the culprits. **BMB**

Man held for sexual assault on minor

A 30-year-old man was booked for sexually assaulting a minor girl in Majestic on Saturday.

The victim, a 15-year-old resident of KEB quarters, allegedly ran away after having a fight with her parents. After the parents filed a missing complaint under the Rajaji Nagar police station, it was later found that she was taken to Majestic by the accused who further assaulted her. **BMB**

B'luru laid bare: City losing green cover, says report

Pollution Control Board highlights city has lower proportion of its area under forest cover as compared to other cities

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Over the last five years, Bengaluru has lost at least 15,000 trees to various projects

Bengaluru's green cover is shrinking while Delhi has successfully expanded its forests. Experts warn unchecked development is worsening the urban heat island effect, urging immediate action to balance growth with sustainability

A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has highlighted that Bengaluru has a much lower proportion of its geographical area under forest cover compared to other mega cities like Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

The report further notes that Delhi has significantly increased its forest and tree cover over the last two decades. In 2001, the city had just over 10% of its total geographical area under tree and forest cover. This has now risen to 25.04%.

In contrast, multiple studies analysing Bengaluru's green cover over the past few decades indicate a steady decline. City-based experts argue that Bengaluru should follow Delhi's example and expand its tree and forest cover to mitigate the impact of climate change. According to the CPCB report, Delhi had 151 square kilometres under tree and forest cover in 2001, which has now increased to 371.31 square kilometres.

"If Delhi can expand its tree and forest cover, Bengaluru can do it too. However, achieving this requires striking a balance between development and environmental conservation. Many proposed and upcoming infrastructure projects should be carefully assessed to evaluate their environmental impact," said a city-based environmentalist.

Over the last five years, Bengaluru has lost at least 15,000 trees to various projects, primarily for infrastructure development such as metro lines, suburban rail networks, and road widening.

Researchers have long warned that Bengaluru's green cover is diminishing at an alarming rate. A recent satellite-based study by the National Remote Sensing Centre, under the Indian Space Research Organisation, found that vegetation (tree cover) within the BBMP limits stood at 26.1% (18,572.2 hectares) in 2019, down from 30.1% (21,414.9 hectares) in 2006—an overall reduction of 4%.

On Monday, Bengaluru recorded a higher temperature than Delhi, even though it is only March. "The heat is already unbearable. The city's urban heat island effect is worsening with each summer. The need of the hour is not only to increase tree and forest cover but also to enhance water bodies to help mitigate the rising temperatures," said a researcher.

Crackdown on illegal banners begins

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has issued strict orders to remove all unauthorised flexes and banners across BBMP limits and to register FIRs against those responsible for their installation.

During a meeting at the BBMP headquarters, Giri Nath raised concerns over the increasing number of illegal banners in the city and instructed officials to take immediate action. He directed authorities to impose double fines on violators and strictly enforce the rules. Acting on directives from the Deputy Chief Minister, officials have been asked to inspect their respective zones and clear unauthorized flexes at the earliest.

Priority areas for the crackdown include Bellary Road, West, East, and Yelahanka zones. The costs of removing these banners will be recovered from those responsible. **–BMB**

Action against waste dumping in drains

BBMP Chief Commissioner has directed officials to take immediate action to prevent garbage from being dumped into storm water drains (SWDs) across the city. He emphasised the need for proper waste collection, particularly in houses and slum areas near the drains, and urged officials to raise awareness about the issue.

Authorities have been instructed to identify locations where waste is being dumped and deploy marshals to monitor and enforce regulations. To curb waste accumulation, officials will identify high-risk areas and install trash barriers, ensuring regular cleaning and maintenance.

With the monsoon approaching, the BBMP chief has ordered officials to address flood-prone areas and expedite ongoing work before the rains begin.He stressed the importance of continous dreging and to take necessary preventive measures. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Calls for better safety measures at Hampi's remote monuments

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Hampi, often referred to as an open-air museum, is home to thousands of monuments, many of which are secured with CCTV cameras and security personnel, especially near major temples and heritage sites. However, safety remains a concern in isolated areas where security is not guaranteed, prompting authorities to prioritize tourist safety in these locations.

Following a recent incident in Sanapur, Koppal district, the police department has introduced several measures to enhance security in Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. However, many remote monuments remain unguarded and lack CCTV surveillance, raising concerns for visitors. These lesser-known sites, often less frequented, pose risks for solo travellers, leading the Monument Protection Committee to call for strengthened security measures.

While major attractions such as the Virupaksha Temple, Yeduru Basavanna, Ugra Narasimha, Sasivekalu and Kadlekalu Ganesha, Vijaya Vittala Temple, and Purandara Mantapa have adequate security, many smaller monuments remain vulnerable.

Over 15 identified unsafe areas in Hampi

Reports indicate that at least 15 locations in Hampi have been deemed unsafe. Some of the affected areas include Shiva temples in remote parts of Hampi and locations where security infrastructure, such as CCTV cameras, has been damaged. Currently, the security personnel stationed in Hampi include a Circle Inspector (CPI), two Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), three Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), and a team of 22 personnel. Additionally, 22 tourism assistants and 100 SIS security guards are deployed, but staffing shortages persist. The presence of wild animals in certain areas has also added to tourists' concerns.

Foreign tourists, particularly those exploring on bicycles or on foot, often venture into isolated locations alone. Many of these sites are along roads where CCTV cameras have been found broken, raising concerns about effective surveillance. Authorities have been urged to take immediate action to restore security infrastructure. Some of the key sites lacking adequate security include Sugriva Cave, Sita Seragu, Sahasralinga, Chakratirtha, and the Shiva temple near Vijaya Vittala Temple.

Cap on number of vehicles entering Ooty, Kodaikanal

Meanwhile, travellers heading to Ooty and Kodaikanal for the summer holidays must be aware of new vehicle restrictions imposed by the Madras High Court to ease congestion. The court has capped the number of tourist vehicles allowed into these hill stations—Ooty will permit 6,000 vehicles on weekdays and 8,000 on weekends, while Kodaikanal will allow 4,000 on weekdays and 6,000 on weekends. However, local vehicles and those transporting agricultural produce are exempt. According to a Times of India report, these restrictions will be in effect from April 1 to June. Additionally, priority will be given to electric vehicles when issuing e-passes, which are now mandatory for entry.

The move comes after reports revealed that nearly 20,000 vehicles enter the Nilgiris daily, leading to severe traffic congestion. Travelers from Bengaluru planning trips to these destinations are advised to plan accordingly and ensure compliance with the new guidelines to avoid inconvenience.

Certainly not the first thing we need? Brouhaha at Sankey Tank

Construction, bright lights cannot be good for lake's ecosystem, say residents of area, who want officials to focus on conservation instead

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In less than a day of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's announcement to hold Cauvery Aarti at Sankey Tank, preparations for the religious ceremony at the lake have begun.

Giant speakers to play music on the occasion are being placed at multiple spots inside the lake area, bright lights are being put up and an 'aarti deck' is being constructed', right inside the lake.

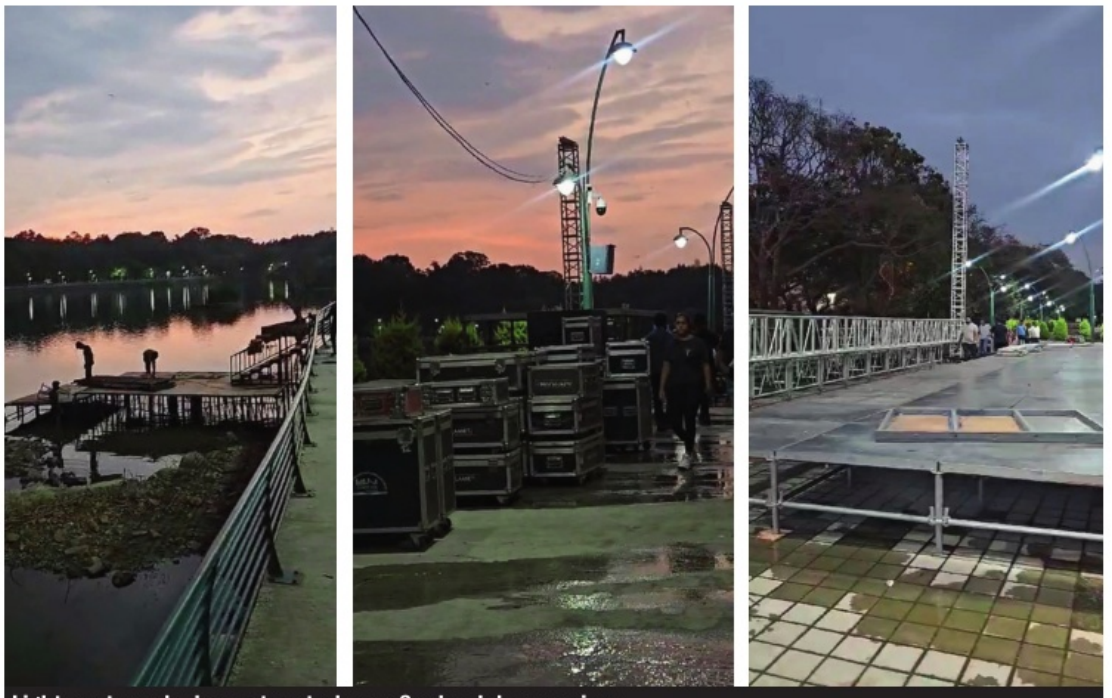
As these preparations are on for the event on March 21, residents of the area are bewildered.

"The platform for the Deputy Chief Minister to perform aarti along the lines of Ganga aarti is being constructed right inside the lake. This cannot be good for the lake and its ecology. We are aghast by the ongoing activities," said a regular walker at Sankey Tank.

Citizens are now planning to write to the Lake Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru's lakes' custodian. "We will be writing to the special commissioner of the Lake Department to express our strong opposition to the Cauvery Aarti at Sankey Tank and urge BBMP to reconsider its approval. I urge you to revoke permissions for this event and prioritise lake restoration instead," said a resident.

Locals say this goes on to show BBMP's skewed priorities. While the civic agency has been unwelcoming towards citizen-led conservation efforts at the lake and has denied permissions, such events that will disturb the water body and its ecosystem are being allowed.

"BBMP denied a plog activity at Sankey Lake. However, a stage, sound systems, and a crowd of 10,000 are being allowed. This contradicts BBMP's duty as the lake custodian," said another resident.



Lights put up, deck constructed near Sankey lake premises

Residents of Malleswaram, who have been working towards the preservation and conservation of the lake, say the event will be detrimental to wildlife (birds and animals) that live inside the lake or use it as a corridor.

"Wetlands are not entertainment zones. This event will disturb migratory birds and local wildlife, violating ecological responsibility. With ward elections pending, there is no elected body to oversee decisions affecting public spaces. Sankey Tank lacks aeration, has inadequate water testing, and has been over-concretised. Resources should be spent towards these pressing issues, instead of an aarti," said Preeti Sundarajan, another resident.

> **"Wetlands are not entertainment zones. This event will disturb migratory birds and local wildlife, violating ecological duty**
> –Preeti Sundarajan, resident of area

Locals also underline that the lake is an important slender loris corridor. Bright lighting, loud sound and tons of garbage that the event will produce will be harmful to Slender Loris and other wildlife.

"We are considering dimming the lights that have been installed inside the lake area as currently it is too bright. The lake has many nocturnal birds and such bright lights disturb them. No public consultation was held before going ahead with the event. We have been approaching BWSSB to stop the entry of sewage into the lake for months. While they have not lifted a finger in that regard, it is quick on its feet to organise this event. No resident in the area is happy about this," said Kimsuka Iyer, another citizen.

"Such unwarranted events are being organised using taxpayer's money. Ironically, our Deputy CM has decided to organise an aarti when many roads in the city are not even motorable. This is an utter waste of resources," said a citizen.

Man goes to top cop after police ignore his complaint regarding second-hand car fraud

Buying a second-hand car for a livelihood turned into a nightmare for a Bengalurean, who not only lost his vehicle but also faced police indifference when he sought justice.

Surya Prakash, a driver by profession, purchased a used car a year ago from Vinay Kumar under a loan continuation agreement. He paid an upfront amount of Rs 1 lakh and agreed to take over the existing car loan of Rs 6 lakh, sending monthly EMI payments to the previous owner for three months. However, to his shock, the bank seized the vehicle after a few months, as Vinay Kumar had failed to pay the bank despite collecting EMIs from Surya Prakash.

Feeling cheated, Surya Prakash approached Vinay Kumar for an explanation, only to be met with harassment and refusal to return his money. He lodged a complaint at the Parappana Agrahara police station but found himself at the receiving end of alleged police apathy.

According to Surya Prakash, PSI Dharaneesh delayed acting on his complaint for eight months and even made derogatory remarks. "If you file a complaint here, you will have to see my face every day," the PSI allegedly told him. Frustrated by the inaction, Surya Prakash escalated the complaint to Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayanand, pleading for intervention. **BMB**

Bail plea of Ranya Rao adjourned till Mar 19

The bail petition of Kannada actress Ranya Rao, who was arrested in a gold smuggling case, has been adjourned until March 19.

The case was heard on Monday in the CCH 64th Court, which has directed the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to file its objections before the next hearing. Further proceedings will continue after the submission of objections.

This follows the Special Court for Economic Offences rejecting Rao's previous bail plea last week, citing the seriousness of the charges against her.

In a related development, the Karnataka High Court has extended its interim order preventing the DRI from arresting Rao's husband, Jatin Vijayakumar Hukkeri, in connection with the ongoing probe.

Meanwhile, the second accused in the case, hotelier Tarun Raju, has been remanded to judicial custody for 15 days as investigations continue.

Authorities allege that Raju played a crucial role in facilitating the smuggling operation by managing the logistics of gold transportation and distribution within India.

The case

Ranya, the stepdaughter of senior Karnataka IPS officer DGP K Ramachandra Rao, is currently lodged in Parappana Agrahara jail.

She was arrested on March 3 at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru after authorities seized 14.2 kg of foreign-origin gold bars worth Rs 12.56 crore from her possession. **PTI**

IN BRIEF

K'taka's biggest drug bust: Collusion at Delhi airport, says Speaker

Karnataka Assembly Speaker UT Khader said on Monday that narcotics and drugs were being brought into the state by drug peddlers in collusion with the authorities at the Delhi airport.

He made this statement while speaking in the Assembly and congratulating the Karnataka Police for seizing drugs worth Rs 75 crore, including 38 kg MDMA, in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The Mangaluru police cracked the case and arrested two South African nationals in Bengaluru -- 31-year-old Bamba Fanta, also known as Adonis Jabulile, from Agbovillae, and 30-year-old Abigail Adonis, also known as Olijo Evans, from Pretoria. Both accused were residing in Delhi.

Khader said, "I congratulate the Chief Minister, Home Minister, and the government for this operation. This is a huge blow to the drug mafia. I appreciate the Mangaluru police for their ground-level efforts, patience, and commitment. The case began with the seizure of 15 grams of drugs, followed by 6.5 kilograms, and now the origins have been tracked."

"Earlier, everyone pointed to Mangaluru, the coastal city of Karnataka, as the origin of drugs. However, it is now clear that the drugs are coming from Delhi," he emphasized.

"If drugs are being transported from Delhi, there is collusion and internal arrangements at Delhi airport," he added. **IANS**

Bengaluru airport rated best again

The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, has been awarded the ACI ASQ Award for 'Best Airport for Arrivals Globally' in 2024 for the third consecutive year.

ACI World's globally recognised Airport Service Quality (ASQ) programme presents the prestigious ACI ASQ Award, determined through direct passenger feedback, according to a press release issued by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) on Monday.

The programme evaluates airports worldwide based on key attributes such as comfort, cleanliness, service quality, and convenience, the release added.

According to the press release, passengers have consistently praised BLR Airport for its efficient arrival procedures, including streamlined immigration and customs checks, high-speed WiFi, fast baggage delivery, and a seamless process that ensures a smooth, hassle-free arrival experience. **PTI**

India's smartphone exports surge 54% to surpass Rs 1.75 lakh crore in April-Feb

India's smartphone exports crossed a staggering Rs 1.75 lakh crore ($21 billion) in 11 months of FY2024-25 (April-February) which constitutes a 54 per cent jump over the corresponding figure for the same period of FY2023-24, according to latest industry data.

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw has stated that he expects smartphone exports to reach $20 billion (Rs 1.68 lakh crore,) during 2024-25, but the estimate has already been exceeded in 11 months of the current financial year, as per data from the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

India's electronics goods exports, led by smartphones, have been accelerating in recent years on the back of government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme which has succeeded in attracting foreign tech giants such as Apple and its suppliers, looking to set up alternative supply chains outside China after the Communist country came under US sanctions.

The PLI scheme has boosted exports and reduced imports, as domestic production now meets 99 per cent of domestic demand. Around 70 per cent of the exports were contributed by Apple's iPhone supply chain with Tamil Nadu-based Foxconn plant, accounting for close to 50 per cent of the overseas shipments. Exports from the Foxconn factory registered an over 40 per cent jump over the same period of the previous financial year.

Another 22 per cent of the exports came from iPhone vendor Tata Electronics, which has acquired the Wistron smartphone manufacturing factory in Karnataka. Another 12 per cent of the export consignments came from the Pegatron facility in Tamil Nadu in which Tata Electronics acquired a 60 per cent stake towards January-end. **IANS**

Patidar will lead RCB for a long time: Kohli

Indian superstar Virat Kohli has backed newly-appointed Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar to lead the side for a long time.

Kohli, who has been with RCB since IPL's inception in 2008, led the franchise for more than a decade and remains its face.

Patidar has succeeded Faf du Plessis as captain with the South African moving to Delhi Capitals this season.

"This guy is going to lead you for a long time. He is going to do a great job. He has got everything that is required (to succeed)," Kohli said in his address to RCB's loyal fans at the team's Unbox event here on Monday.

RCB have never won the IPL but Kohli remains hopeful.

"It feels amazing to be back. The excitement and happiness is like every other season. I have been here for 18 years and absolutely love RCB. We have an amazing squad this time around. Lot of talent in the team. I am personally very excited about this season," Kohli added.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli presents a shield to skipper Rajat Patidar during the RCB Unbox event at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, on Monday; Scenes from the unboxing event

This will be Kohli's first IPL after retiring from T20 Internationals.

Patidar, standing next to Kohli, said it was an honour to lead RCB.

"Legends like Virat bhai, Ab de Villiers, Chris Gayle have played for RCB. I grew up watching them. From the start I have loved the franchise a lot. I am more happy that I got a new role to lead one of the biggest teams (in T20 cricket)," said Patidar, who has also played for India. **PTI**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nikikumari S, w/o Pradeep Kumar, R/o No-17 1st Main Road Sreepuram Extension Seshadripuram Bengaluru-560020, have changed my name to Niki Jain for all Purposes.

I MAYA KUMARI SHARMA D/o Hema Panthi Sharma aged about 42 years R/At Kavitha Apt, No.22,1st Floor, Bhubhaneshwari Rd, Whitefield, B'luru-560066 have changed my name to MAYA SHARMA vide affidavit dtd:17/03/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

I GURU PRASAD R/O NO.121 Ground Floor 4th Main Road KPSC Layout 2nd Stage Jnanabharathi Bengaluru-560056 have changed my name as GURU PRASAD KOTEGAR vide Affidavit dated 15/03/2025 before Notary S N Madhu Bengaluru.

I Abdul Rehaman Pudiyakudi Abdul S/o Abdul Samad Pudiyakudi Ismail,Residing At, Kondangeri, Halugunda Village, Kodagu District , 571252 have changed my name to Abdul Rahiman Pudiyakudi Abdul for all purposes.

I, Saakshi Devraj, R/a Kammaragodu Estate, Kamma -ragodu Post, Gonibeedu Hobli, Chikmagaluru Dist., Pin: 577132, have changed my name to Saakshi Devraj Ruthvik for future purpose

I, Rohini Chandan Bhat R/O no 439 4th mn HMT L/O Anandnagar B'lore 560024 Have changed my name Rohini Ramachandra Bhat to Rohini Chandan Bhat for all future purposes.

I, Kumari Anusha Deshpande W/O, Sachin Kumar Joshi R/o 302 3rd Floor Annapurna Residency Nagadevanahalli Viswavidalaya Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Anusha for all purposes.

I, Manmohan Singh T R/O no 107 8th crs 2nd mn BEL l/o Vidyaranyapura B'lore 560097 Have changed my name Manmohan Singh to Manmohan Singh T for all future purposes

I, Priyam Kumar Tiwari R/o Divyasree Elan Homes, 1B/103 Kaikondrahalli, Sarjapur road, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to Priyam Tiwari Affidavit Dt.17/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Manjula Suneel Kumar w/o Suneel Kumar , R/at # 10/1,1st Cross 1st Main, Ramarao Layout Kathriguppe, BSK 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085, have changed my name to Manjula Thyagaraj, for all purposes

I Heena Kausad D/O, Javid Ali R/o #13 1st Cross Near Outer Ring Road Malagala Bangalore 560091 have changed my name to Heena Kausar.

I, Mohammad Idrees S/O Mohammed Siddiq # 16 Cleveland Town Blr-05 have changed my name to Mohammed Idrees for all purposes.

I, Venkatesha B N S/o Nagarajasetty B M R/at #No.5-1,M G Road,Near Sri Rama Theatre, Ramanagar 571511, have changed my name to Venkatesh B N for all purposes

I Nataraj Javagondanahalli S/O, Govondappa R/o Gudihalli, Gownahalli Post, Hiriyur Taluk, Hiriyur Taluk, Chitradurga District have changed my name to Nataraj.

I, Nagaraj S/O Oblesh, R/o #65, 7th Cross, SR Nagar, Bangalore - 560030, have embraced Islam and changed my name to Mohammed Omar for all purposes

LOST & FOUND

I, J Narayana Gowda, residing at No. 1575, 22nd Main, 5th A Cross, Bangalore-560050, have lost Original Registered Lease cum Sale Agreement of Plot 519 PIA at Peenya on 12.02.2025. Finders please contact: 9480940575

IT is notified for the information that my II PUC Marks Card Reg No: 574359, Degree Marks Card & Convocation Certificate Reg No: 951EG024 obtained through St. Joseph's Evening College, PG Dip in PM & IR bearing Reg No: D8PI101118 obtained through St. Joseph's College of Business Administration have been actually lost. Finders please Contact Mr. Luke Leonard Kumar, Vinusha Nilaya, 34/1, 13th Cross, Aneplaya, Bengaluru - 560030 Phone-9110804352

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Potholes, speeding among reasons for accidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sustained injuries, with 135 suffering serious or permanent disabilities.

When compared with accident data from the past three years, traffic police officials noted a significant increase in incidents. In January and February 2023, 120 people lost their lives in accidents, while in the same period of 2024, the death toll rose to 128.

In 2022, a total of 3,822 accidents were reported, resulting in 722 deaths and 3,189 injuries. The following year, the number of accidents increased to 4,974, with 910 fatalities and 4,191 people injured. Additionally in 2024, as of a more recent count, 4,351 accidents led to 802 deaths and 3,685 injuries. By the end of February 2025, as many as 784 accidents had been recorded with 140 deaths and 682 injuries.

The collisions have involved a wide range of vehicles, including BMTC buses, motorcycles, autos, lorries, cars, containers. Traffic officials also point out that drunk driving and speeding has been a growing contributor to road accidents.

The most accident-prone areas include state and national highways, outer ring roads, and even minor roads cutting through the city. Traffic police reveal that potholes, excessive speeding, and vehicles traveling without proper headlights at night are some of the primary reasons behind these accidents. The worsening condition of roads has not only led to an increase in accidents but has also contributed to severe traffic congestion, making commuting an everyday struggle for citizens.

A senior traffic police official confirmed, "February witnessed the highest number of accidents this year. Many of these incidents were caused by reckless driving, poor road conditions, and inadequate safety measures."

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South traffic) Shiva Prakash Devaraju, the pattern of road accidents in the South Division has remained consistent. Two-wheelers continue to account for a significant share, contributing to approximately 30 to 40% of the total accidents reported in the region.

"In contrast, accidents involving BMTC buses are comparatively lower, making up only about 10%. So far, only one or two incidents involving BMTC buses have been recorded, indicating that private vehicles, particularly two-wheelers, are a more frequent factor in road mishaps.

BMTC buses in scrutiny

However the recent accidents involving BMTC buses have caused concerns. Traffic police officials have issued warnings to BMTC drivers, urging them to exercise greater caution on the roads.

On February 28, around 11.35 am, one of the most horrific incidents took place in Banashankari, after a collision between two BMTC buses claimed the lives of a doctor and an auto driver.

The accident occurred when an auto traveling towards Sita Circle from Hosakerehalli Cross was rear-ended by a BMTC bus. The impact forced the auto into the back of another BMTC bus ahead, crushing the vehicle and instantly killing its occupants.

On the previous day, a 53-year-old woman lost her life near Hebbal Bus Stand around 7.30 pm when a BMTC bus ran over her, causing severe injuries. According to police, the victim was either trying to board the bus or cross the road when the accident happened.

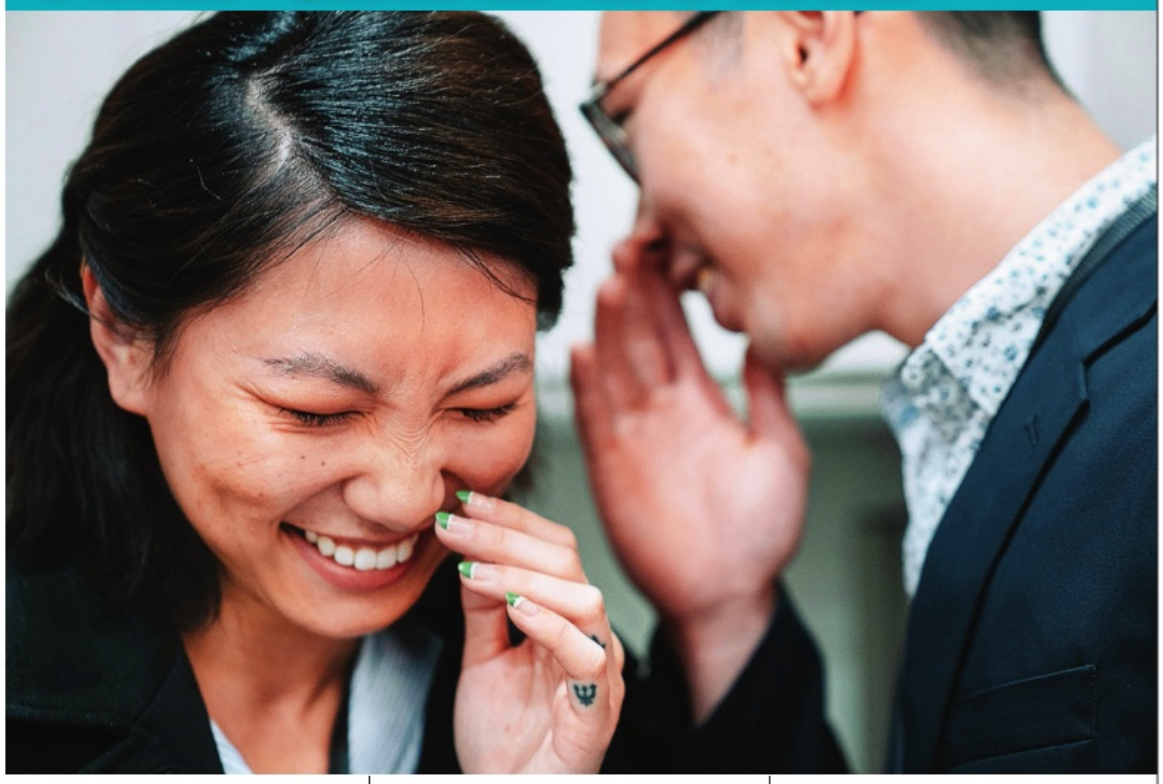
On March 15, a canter driver lost control of his vehicle near the Satellite Bus Stand at 5 am, triggering a multi-vehicle collision. The canter first rammed into a parked car, which hit an auto, before colliding with a BMTC and an Airavat bus. Jagan succumbed to injuries on the spot.

Following the incident, the traffic police department has issued strict instructions to BMTC drivers to drive responsibly. Traffic police stated, "BMTC drivers have been cautioned to be more careful and adhere to speed limits. We are also conducting training sessions about how to follow traffic discipline and driving in congestion."

HEALTH TIP: If you wake up with a flat stomach but go to bed with a swollen one, you're probably suffering from bloating

This is caused by sluggish bowels, a poor diet, food intolerance or eating too quickly (you end up swallowing too much air)

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE



When is workplace chat 'just gossip' and when is it 'sharing information'?

When two junior employees bump into each other in the corridor and start chatting about their manager's overbearing manner, it's typically considered gossip. But what about when two managers have an off-record catch-up to discuss an under-performing employee?

Both scenarios meet traditional definitions of gossip – the information being shared is about other people, the people it's about are absent, the information is shared in a way that casts judgement on those people, and it's informal. Yet the two situations are viewed very differently.

What counts as gossip is much more slippery than we might think. I reviewed 184 academic articles to understand what really constitutes workplace gossip.

The key, I found, is not any set of objective criteria, but rather people's shared agreement that a situation counts as gossip.

This understanding of gossip helps us make sense of the "workplace gossip paradox" – the idea that gossip can be considered both a reliable source of social information ("the inside word") and an unreliable information source ("just gossip").

My work also provides insights into how businesses can manage gossip before it becomes a scandal.

Knowledge is power – but power controls knowledge

How does recognising the slipperiness of gossip help us understand the workplace gossip paradox? The answer has to do with the role of power in legitimising information.

Leaders and managers need information to justify action. If a manager is going to investigate a sexual harassment claim, they can't do so based solely on a hunch. They need to hear about it from someone.

If the victim of sexual harassment complains directly to their manager, an investigation is automatically justified. But what if the manager hears about harassment indirectly and unofficially (for example, through "gossip"), with the added complication that the alleged perpetrator is another manager?

If the manager does something about what they've heard and the source turns out to be unreliable, they could face negative consequences for acting on what was essentially "just gossip." But if they don't act, and the information turns out to be credible, they could face repercussions for ignoring the "inside word."

There is evidence that such paradoxical situations play out quite frequently in real-world workplaces. For example, inside information about negligence towards patient safety in healthcare settings has, in the past, been dismissed as "just gossip" until it provoked a public scandal.

The same thing happened in a university where gossip shared through a "whisper network" was eventually corroborated by an independent inquiry. In this case, the inquiry also found official complaints had been ignored.

One case study from the United States found managers tended to keep an ear out for information passing through the grapevine and selectively use it to further their own interests.

If gossip threatened their power, they repressed it as "just gossip". But if gossip provided "useful" information – ammunition against a subversive employee, for example – management legitimised gossip as "official information".

How to manage the workplace gossip paradox

To avoid scandals stemming from when gossip is ignored, managers might consider "co-opting" gossip, bringing it into official communication channels.

But there's a problem with this approach. Gossip gains its credibility as the inside word because it takes place outside official communication channels. Therefore, if managers try to co-opt gossip into formal management processes, it's likely to have the unintended consequence of discrediting the shared information.

Instead, "managing gossip" requires a better understanding of its functions and motivations.

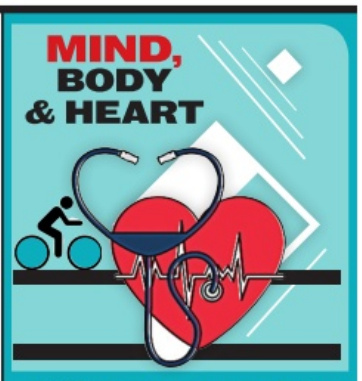
One function is to reduce uncertainty. Research suggests gossip often arises to fill information gaps. For example, people might speculate about a manager's salary by gossiping about their expensive car or holiday.

Such gossip is likely to be exaggerated and counterproductive. However, it could be managed simply by being transparent about staff salaries, filling the information gap before gossip does.

Another key function of gossip is to warn against antisocial behaviours like bullying. But if employees feel comfortable speaking up about such behaviour — even when it's perpetrated by those with official power – managers will not face the dilemma of whether to act on information that could turn out to be "just gossip."

Gossip is a slippery and paradoxical form of communication. Some would say it's unmanageable. But what can be managed are the workplace behaviours and hierarchical relationships that gossip loves to sink its teeth into.

(By James Greenslade, Auckland University of Technology, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

How to stop overthinking

Don't quit cold turkey
Give yourself a worry period – say 30 minutes each day. Take this time to indulge in worrying, being infatuated, second-guessing everything, the works. But once you're done, no more of it for the rest of the day!

Finish with a solution
For every worry that you have, think of the worst-case scenario. Imagine what you would do if that really happened. For example, if you lose your job, you'll update your resume and apply elsewhere. Apply this thought process to all that is bothering you.

Address the problem
Are you ruminating all the time about your partner and what they meant by their words or actions? Maybe it's not as bad as you think it is, and you'll never know if you keep the thoughts to yourself. Communicate openly to get your answers.

Find the positives
There's something good in everything, so seek the same and focus on it. Are you obsessing over being in a relationship? Why not channel the extra time and energy you have now into doing things you love!

Bigger picture
Trivial issues matter only in our head, and guess what, in a year or two or five, they won't even matter to you!

Distract yourself
Be mindful of when you start giving into negative thoughts. Once you realise that you're wasting your resources again, occupy your mind with something else. This could be a hobby or simply calling up a loved one.

Learn acceptance
You can't predict the future, and worrying isn't going to change anything. You can only make a difference by bettering yourself and giving your best each day.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

HKU1 not a new virus, less likely to cause any widespread infection: Experts

Even as the news of a woman in Kolkata being infected with Human Coronavirus HKU1 has raised fresh concerns, health experts on Monday said that the virus has been known for at least two decades and is less likely to cause any widespread infection. HKU1 was named after Hong Kong University where it was originally described in 2004. HKU1 is also known as Betacoronavirus hongkonense. It is a species of coronavirus that affects humans and animals. Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Chairman, Scientific Committee, IMA Cochin told IANS that HKU1 is different from Covid-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. "HKU1 is one of several common cold-causing viruses that belong to the coronavirus group. It is not the same as Covid-19 and is not a new virus," Jayadevan said. "As per current understanding, HKU1 is a coronavirus subtype. It is less likely to cause any widespread infection," Dr. Harshal R Salve, Additional professor at, the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS. HKU1 is one of the four common cold-causing coronaviruses -- NL63, OC43, 229E. Most cases are mild with a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. —IANS

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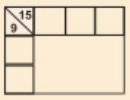
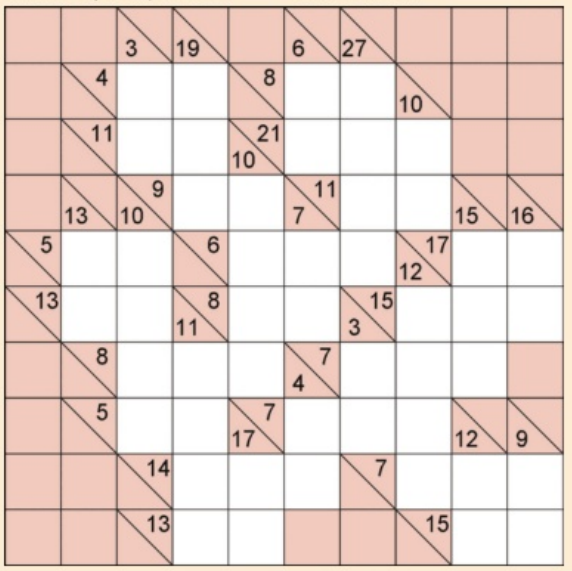
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

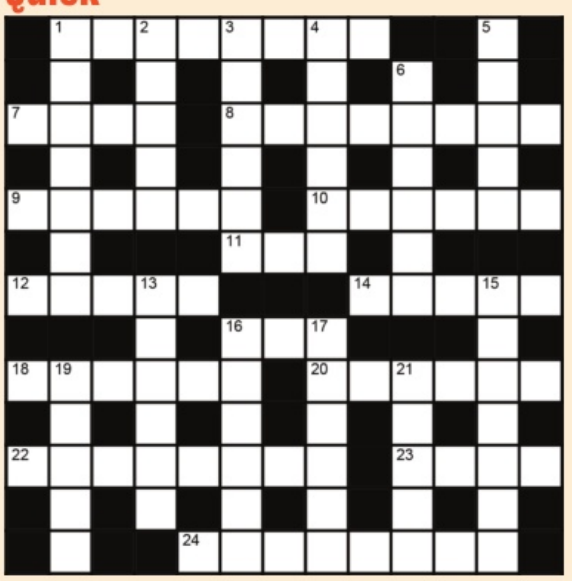


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Funny man (8)
7 British jail (4)
8 Grease monkey (8)
9 Secret ____ : spies? (6)
10 Touching clumsily–like a dog, maybe? (6)
11 Set of tools (3)
12 Waste matter (5)
14 Work on dough (5)
16 Limited, in short (3)
18 False, prefix (6)
20 Tripods used by artists (6)
22 Chapati made out of rice (4,4)
23 Gave turn to a star? (4)
24 Insulted, outraged or slighted (8)

DOWN

1 Faux pas (7)
2 Italian city (5)
3 Patterned woven material (6)
4 Take or receive (6)
5 Charged atom (5)
6 Chinese Taipei (6)
13 One room apartment (6)
15 Claimed (7)
16 Sign out online (3,3)
17 Gadget (6)
19 Goods in store (5)
21 Reserved or economized (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

NPTY PB LDMA DMWWYFB AU QUV LDPNY QUV'KY JVBQ GMEPFO UADYK WNMFB.

Linemaro

If God made anything more beautiful than you, I'm sure he'd keep it for himself

Mindchow

Bibliobibuli, people drunk on books, move through the world seeing nothing and hearing nothing but books

Joke of the day

Did you hear about the jurisprudence fetishist? He got off on a technicality

Loop

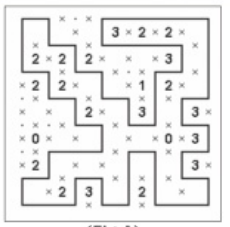
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

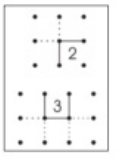
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

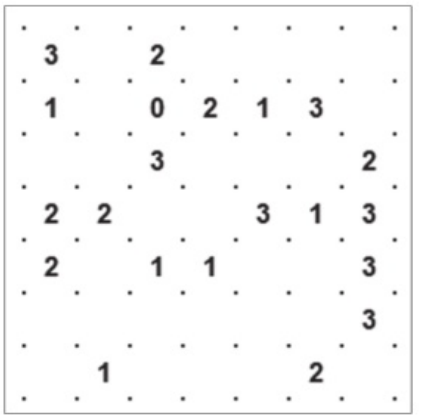
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



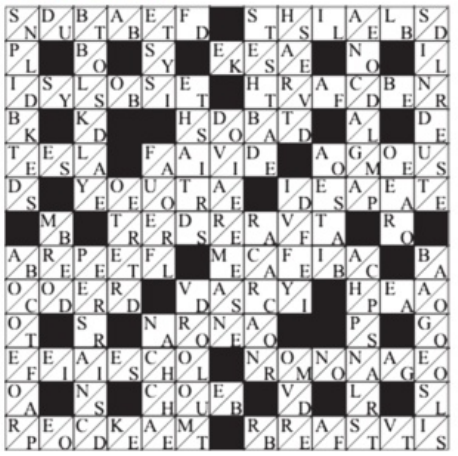
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



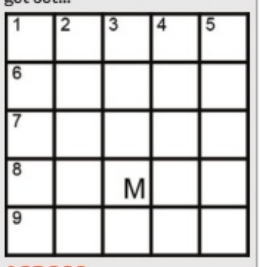
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

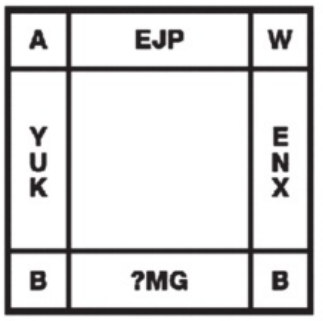
1 Paras; 6 Con I'm; 7 Evil a; 8 My hen; 9 Paste

DOWN

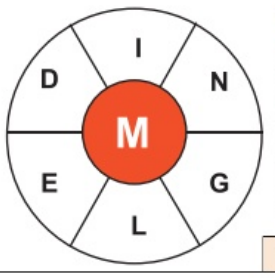
1 A mash; 2 P ploy; 3 Amnia; 4 Rev it; 5 Neces

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

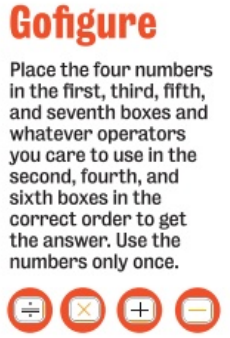
SudokuChallenge

5		4		1		7		3
	8	7				1	6	
	6			2			8	
			1		5			
6	9						3	1
			8		6			
	5			7			1	
	3	8				2	5	
4		2		8		9		6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

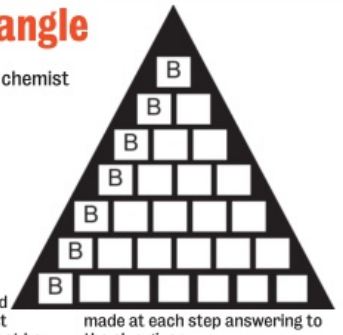
Differences: 1. Bag is larger. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Tent flap opening is different. 4. Stake is missing. 5. Mountain is different. 6. Earflap is missing.

Riddler

The names below rhyme with the first and last names of famous celebrities. For example, Forge Yearns would be George Burns. What are the following celebrity names?
1. Bobbin Pilgrims, 2. Semi Drawer, 3. Grieve Slobs & 4. Rally Hairy

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Beryllium for the chemist
3 Ten decibels ?
4 Ocean hue
5 Swell out
6 Steal from
7 Bumbler

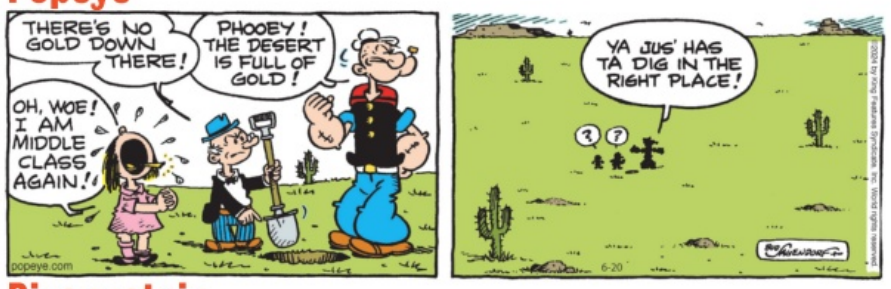


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


THERE'S NO GOLD DOWN THERE!
PHOOEY! THE DESERT IS FULL OF GOLD!
OH, WOE! I AM MIDDLE CLASS AGAIN!
YA JUS' HAS TA DIG IN THE RIGHT PLACE!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

I WON'T KID YOU... IT WAS DIFFICULT HAVING TO STEP IN FOR TONIGHT'S CONCERT AT THE LAST MINUTE...
CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
HOLIDAY CONCERT TONIGHT
BUT, CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE...
I PULLED IT OFF BRILLIANTLY!
BATUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel some internal weakness, and major health issues could reoccur. You may struggle to enjoy both your personal and professional life. Ongoing projects might face unexpected delays, which could upset you. It is advised to drive safely. The blessings of elders may help you navigate difficult situations.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel positive energy around you, and things will be under control. You might plan to start a new business in partnership and could also consider long-distance travel. You will strengthen trust with your spouse, bringing harmony to your domestic life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day for you. Investors may see good returns, improving financial stability. Stuck money may be recovered, increasing liquidity in business. You will feel confident, and will have control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles are likely to find a suitable match, possibly in the same field or workplace.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel dissatisfied today and struggle to fulfill your responsibilities. Some investments might result in losses. It is advisable to carefully read documents before signing them. Your parents' health may cause concern. If you are planning office renovations, it would be better to postpone them for a few days.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may consider migrating or relocating today, but it is advised to think twice before making such a decision. You may also contemplate changing jobs. Your mind will be at peace, but concerns over your child's health may trouble you. Avoid speculation in investments. Lovebirds should remain patient before making significant marriage-related decisions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will have good patience. Meditation can help improve concentration, speeding up your projects. Your subordinates may be supportive, allowing you to complete work before deadlines. Short work-related travel is likely. An influential person may assist in expanding your network.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may be busy with family gatherings and social events today. Your polite nature will earn you respect amongst those around you. You may spend money on artifacts or household items, enhancing your social status. Some good news from a relative is likely.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happy and blessed by the Moon, leading to good health and a positive impact on your work. Your performance in all areas of life will improve, enhancing your reputation. With strong concentration, you may make important business decisions for growth.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your energy levels may be low today, and an old illness might resurface, causing discomfort. Avoid adventure sports and reckless driving. Legal disputes should be settled outside of court if possible. You may also consider an overseas trip.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You will start your day with happiness. At work, your quick decision-making skills will improve, benefiting your management abilities in the long run. A new source of income may boost your savings. With your business partner's help, you might invest in a venture. Your bond with your spouse will strengthen.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may be busy at work today, leading to mental exhaustion and limited time for family. However, with the blessings of elders, job seekers may secure high positions, and managers may be promoted to top management. You might receive rewards or recognition, elevating your status. Professionally, you are likely to perform well.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You will feel positive energy around you today, guiding you in the right direction. With a peaceful mind, your performance in all aspects of life will be remarkable. Your destiny is in your favor. You may plan to visit a distant religious place and feel inspired to do charitable work. Some good news regarding a grandchild is also possible.

KIDZONE

Purvi K Sidlipura, 7 years, Bengaluru

Rutvik Madan, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 27/(1/3) ÷ 9/6 = 27*3/1 ÷ 3/2
= 81/1 x 2/3 = 27/1 x 2/1
= 54/1 = 54

RIDDLER
1. Robin Williams, 2. Demi Moore, 3. Steve Jobs & 4. Halle Berry

BULL'S EYE
denim, diem, dime, lime, lined, meld, mile, mind, mine, mined, MELDING, mend, men, mild, mingle, MINGLED

FAST FIVE

A	P	A	R	S
M	O	N	I	C
A	L	I	V	E
H	Y	M	E	N
S	P	A	T	E

QUOTE UNCODE
Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

STRIKE OUT

S	U	B	B	E	D	S	H	I	E	L	D			
P	O	S		K	E	A	N		N		I			
I	S	L	O	S	T		T	R	A	C	E	R		
K		D		H	O	A	D		A		E			
	F	E	E	L		F	I	V	E		A	M	E	S
		R	E	D	E	E	M		B	E	A	S	T	S

QUICK

K				O		F	F	E	N	D	E	D		
	C		O		F		C		E		E			
K	O	R	I	R	O	T	I		V	E	G	A		
	T		D		G		V		A		E			
P	S	E	U	D	O		E	A	S	E	L	S		
		T		L	T	D					L			
D	R	O	S		S		K	N	E	A	D			
		E		K	I	T		A						
A	G	E	N	T	S		P	A	W	I	N	G		
	N		A				E		I		O			
G	A	O	L		M	E	C	H	A	N	I	C		
	L		I		A		C		T		N			
C	O	M	E	D	I	A	N				A			

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Start at the top left, and move clockwise around the square. Letters follow the alphabetical order, skipping 4 letters, then 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, before repeating this sequence.

SUDOKU

5	2	4	6	1	8	7	9	3
3	8	7	4	5	9	1	6	2
1	6	9	3	2	7	4	8	5
8	4	3	1	9	5	6	2	7
9	5	6	7	4	3	1	8	2
7	3	8	9	6	1	2	5	4
2	7	1	8	3	6	5	4	9
6	9	5	7	4	2	8	3	1
4	1	2	5	8	3	9	7	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
8, 8e, 8el, Blue, bulge, burgle, Bungler.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 2 – 4 + 7 = 8
Medium
6 – 4 x 6 + 5 = 17
Hard
3 + 2 + 2 x 3 = 21

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Second song unveiled

After receiving good feedback for the song – Andakalithithile Indakaliththile, the movie Avanirabekittu's team has unveiled the second song – Oho Hrudya – at a function organised at SRV Theater, Malleswaram, on Saturday. Oho Hrudaya is sung by Arfaz Ullal and Anuradha Bhat and has music by Loki Tavasya. Ashok Samrat has directed the movie while Murali BT has bankrolled it. The movieis set to arrive in theaters next month.

"This is my maiden movie as a director in Sandalwood. My childhood friend Murali bankrolled it. The movie has turned out well. The hero and heroine had a 45-day training workshop before this song picturised in Rajasthan, Ladakh and Kerala was shot. Cinematographer Prithvi Malur has done an excellent job," said Samrat.

The director said the movie has three songs. Appreciating the lead pair for their hard work, producer Murali said the movie has turned out well. "We did not compromise with quality. The lead pair has worked hard," the producer said.

50-ft cut-out

A 50-ft cut-out of Ravi Kiran, unveiled at Narthaki Theater complex, much before the movie's shooting was completed, turned out to be quite the eye-catcher. The cut-out for Appu Abhimani was unveiled on March 14. Ravi Kiran is the son of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Narasimhulu. .

Appu Abhimani is directed by Babu Reddy. "It is my maiden movie as a director. I have worked as associate director for a few Kannada movies. I established the Akshaya Film Factory in association with my friends. Appu Abhimani is being bankrolled under Akshaya Film Factory banner," Babu Reddy said.

The director said the first schedule of the shooting was completed recently. "We selected Ravi Kiran as he suits to play the lead in the movie which is about a fan of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar, who comes to Bengaluru from a village," the director said, adding that the function was held to unveil the cut-out in the presence of Puneeth Rajkumar's fans as the movie is about them and Puneeth Rajkumar.

A crazy race

The 'Bidgerton' star Simone Ashley, who is set to star in Brad Pitt's high-octane racing drama 'F1' described her experience of working in the movie as "amazing" and "adrenaline" filled as they shot the scenes alongside real Grand Prix races during the shoot, reported Deadline. Helmed by the 'Top Gun: Maverick' director Joseph Kosinski, the film stars actors like Damson Idris, Kerry Condon, Tobias Menzies, Lewis Hamilton, Javier Bardem and Sarah Niles, along with Brad Pitt in the lead role.

Speaking to 'Who What Wear' for a cover story, Simone Ashley, as quoted by Deadline, said the rush came from filming and touring alongside real Grand Prix races for limited minutes at a time. The Bridgerton star said that certain shots had only one take as they were being shot alongside the real races.

"You had to work as a team. Sometimes, we literally had one take for certain shots. Like, you'd see on the call sheet eight minutes to get this one thing because we were shooting alongside the races," she said. —ANI

IN AN ICONIC ROLE

Tamannaah aspires to play late star Sridevi on screen

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia says she would like to play late star Sridevi on screen because she was "super iconic."

Asked if she would play a style on screen, Tamannaah, who turned muse for label Bloni at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, said the name of the iconic actress, who passed away in 2018 due to accidental drowning.

"It would be Sridevi, ma'am. I think she was super iconic, and she's somebody I always admired," Tamannaah told IANS.

Sridevi broke stereotypes, portraying a wide range of characters across diverse genres, from comedy to drama.

Tagged as the "first female superstar" of Indian cinema, Sridevi worked in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada language films. Her career spanned over 50 years in a wide range of genres. The actress worked on memorable films such as "Mr. India," "Sadma," "Himmatwala," "Khuda Gawah," "Laadla," "Judaai," and "English Vinglish," to name a few.

Her last movie was "Mom," a crime thriller, which was released in 2017. She played a vigilante who sets out to avenge her stepdaughter after she is sexually assaulted at a party.

Talking about Tamannaah, she was last seen in the heist thriller "Sikandar Ka Muqaddar," directed by Neeraj Pandey, starring Jimmy Sheirgill, Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia, Rajeev Mehta, and Divya Dutta.

She will next be seen in the Telugu supernatural thriller "Odela 2," directed by Ashok Teja and written by Sampath Nandi. The film stars Tamannaah, Hebah Patel, and Vasishta N. Simha in lead roles, alongside Yuva, Naga Mahesh, Vamsi, Gagan Vihari, Surender Reddy, Bhupal, and Pooja Reddy.

The upcoming film is the sequel to Odela Railway Station, which is based on the real incidents that happened in Odela village in Telangana. —IANS

All praise from Abhishek

Abhishek Bachchan, who is receiving a lot of positive response for his recent release 'Be Happy', has lauded choreographer-director Remo D'Souza for taking a brave step of taking a departure from his regular style of storytelling with his new directorial. The actor said that he likes how the film harps on the message of hope.

The actor recently attended the Tashkent Film Festival in Uzbekistan. His film 'Ghoomer', in which the actor essayed the role of a cricket coach, was screened at the festival.

His latest release, Be Happy, has once again reaffirmed his stature as an actor with depth, finesse, and an instinct for emotionally resonant storytelling. His portrayal of Shiv, a single father navigating the highs and lows of life with his daughter, has been lauded for its warmth, humor, and heart-wrenching depth.

Abhishek shared, "I thoroughly enjoyed it. I loved the dynamic between the family in entirety, especially Shiv and Dhara. I loved the fact that Remo wanted to tell a story which was so different from the films that he's made in the past". He further mentioned, "I loved the fact that he was wanting to do something emotional and new. I like the fact that it's in general, a very upbeat film with a serious story, but an upbeat film. I loved the fact that it had hope at the end of it. And I really liked the fact that Remo was also trying to show a father's contribution to his child's life. And I liked that aspect of it. I thought it was new and interesting". —IANS

Travel partner

Actress Vedhika, who has made a name for herself in the south Indian film industries with her fine performances, has now penned a heartfelt note of how she managed to realise her dream of taking her dog, a Rottweiler, to Kashmir to see the snow.

Taking to her Instagram timeline, Vedhika wrote, "Nothing was going to stop me from making this dream come true @ oscarkumar_rottweilier."

Stating that with days of planning, patience, and the constant support of her "little circle of strength" and her two assistants, both of whom travelled with her and her dog, Vedhika said she managed to realise her dream.

"I took my Oscar to see the snow, from Bangalore all the way to Kashmir. Despite my OCD, despite the challenges, we pushed through every hurdle. Twelve days of pure bliss and resilience," she wrote. —IANS